

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for operating a device for the secure storage of funds comprising:

interfacing said device with a system;

transmitting from said device to the system a present location of said device;

comparing in a database associated with said system the present location of said device with a previously stored location; and

transmitting to said device from said system an authorization to utilize said funds only if the present location is within a predetermined region associated with said previously stored location.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said authorization is transmitted only if the present location matches the previously stored location.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said device is licensed for use at said previously stored location, and if the comparing indicates that the device is not in the predetermined region, the system issues a new license for a region associated with the present location of said device.

4. The method of claim 3, further comprising communicating from the system to the device, data associated with the present location.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said device is a postal security device and said data includes at least one of zip code, city and state information.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising powering up said device, the method being conducted when said device is powered up.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said transmitting is done when said device establishes a contact with said system.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said contact with said system is terminated after the location of said device is determined.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein if said contact is made by telephone, the location of said device is determined by using caller identification.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein if said contact is made using a network, the location of said device is determined by obtaining a network address of said device.

11. The method of claim 7 wherein if said contact is made using the internet, the location of said device is determined by using internet service provider location identification.

12. The method of claim 7 wherein if said contact is made using a cellular telephone port, the location of said device is determined using a location identifier of a cellular telephone system with which said cellular telephone communicates.

13. The method of claim 7 wherein said device is associated with a position determining apparatus for

determining its location, said device providing to said system its location as determined by said position determining apparatus.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein said position locating apparatus is a global positioning system receiver.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein said device is a postal security device.

16. A device for the secure storage of funds comprising:

a memory for storing value of said funds;

apparatus associated with said device for determining a location of said device; and

a communication port for providing communication between said device and a system, said device communicating said location to said system via said port.

17. The device of claim 16 further comprising apparatus for receiving from said system an authorization to access said funds, if said location is within a predetermined region.

18. The device of claim 17 wherein said apparatus provides access to said funds if said location corresponds to a predetermined location.

19. The device of claim 16, further comprising apparatus for encrypting and digitally signing, or digitally signing said communication.

20. An arrangement for securely dispensing funds comprising:

a device for the secure storage of funds, including:

a memory for storing value of said funds,

apparatus associated with said device for determining a location of said device;

a communication port for providing communication between said device and a system, said device communicating said location to said system via said port;

the system having a database for storing, for each device, a predetermined location; and

apparatus in said system for providing an authorization to said device to dispense funds only if said present location is within a region associated with said predetermined location.

21. The arrangement of claim 20 wherein said apparatus provides said authorization only if said present location matches said previously stored location.

22. The arrangement of claim 19 wherein cryptographic key management supports secure communication with the device.

23. A device for the secure storage of funds comprising:

a memory for storing value of said funds;

a communication port for providing communication with a host for said device;

apparatus for preventing operation of said device or said host if said device does not receive a predetermined digital coded sequence from said host or said host does not receive a predetermined digital coded sequence from said device.